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Alnus serrulata fossilis, and *Magnolia elliptica*. A few new names or new combinations occur due to the necessities of nomenclature or corrections in generic reference. Many of Professor Newberry's species are figured for the first time. An important feature is the figures of several specimens which are the originals of tracings sent to Professor Heer, and from which that author published new species. These are *Populus litigiosa*, *Leguminosites marcouanus*, *Sapotacites haydenii*, and *Phyllites obcordatus*. In a table is given a list of localities from which specimens came as mentioned in the text.

It is most desirable in publication to state in what museums specimens described are located, and the absence of such information in this volume is an unfortunate omission. The undesirable tendency to consider species as distinct, simply because they occur in different geological horizons, is shown in several places, as under *Salix meekii* Newberry, of the Dakota Group, Cretaceous, where the author says that this species has a resemblance to several Tertiary species, "... from which it might be unwise to regard it as distinct if they were from the same formation." Similarly it is undesirable to give a separate name to fossils when their characters are so close to living forms that they are systematically indistinguishable. Cases in which this is done are *Onoclea sensibilis fossilis*, *Corylus rostrata fossilis*, *Alnus serrulata fossilis*. The description of fossil forms "indistinguishable" from living forms, as stated in several cases, raises an objection to the title of the volume, *The Later Extinct Floras of North America*. Species of fossil plants, as of fossil animals, should be based on the characters they present, independently of how long they may have lived, as represented by the lapse of geological time.

R. T. J.

Coal Measure Plants.[1] — In the course of publications by Williamson, Scott, Seward, and others, frequent reference has been made to the Binney collection of fossil plants which was presented to the Woodwardian Museum at Cambridge, England, in 1892. Although some of the species have been repeatedly investigated during the last few decades, the collection embraces other species which illustrate important morphological points hitherto overlooked, and thus afford valuable evidence of a phylogenetic character. Mr. Seward has undertaken to indicate the nature of the data he has gathered from the collection, and thereby places in the hands of working paleobotanists a number of very essential facts. The present "Notes" deal with four specimens of *Lepidodendron harcourtii* and *Halonia regularis*, which the author regards as specifically identical; and with a new genus of Cycadofilices to which he assigns the name of Megaloxylon, as represented by a single species, *M. scottii.*

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[1] Seward, A. C. Notes on the Binney Collection of Coal Measure Plants, *Proc. Cambridge Phil. Soc.*, vol. x, iii, pp. 137.

D. P. P.

Matonia pectinata.[1] — In an important contribution to the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, which gives evidence of the most searching care, Mr. Seward selects Matonia as representing an isolated type of ferns requiring further examination anatomically, in order to determine its relations to the Cyatheaceæ and Gleicheniaceæ, toward which it has been customary to assign it an intermediate position. Mr. Seward concludes that while the genus must hold an independent position among ferns, its affinities are most nearly with those of the Cyatheaceæ. His studies of existing species are designed to have a direct bearing upon the geological history of the Matonineæ, and he therefore brings into comparison Laccopteris and Matonidium in particular; from all of which he concludes that Matonia represents the survival of a family of ferns now confined to a few localities in Borneo and the Malay Peninsula, and represented by two living species, which in Mesozoic time had a wide geographical range, being especially abundant in the European area during the Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous times. The apparent absence of the Matonineæ from Tertiary formations suggests that these forms reached their maximum development in the Mesozoic, and that toward the close of the Cretaceous a decided restriction in geographical range had developed.

D. P. P.

Medullosa anglica.[2] — Dr. Scott's important contributions to our knowledge of the Cycadofilices have been recently enlarged by the description of a new species of Medullosa to which he assigns the name of *M. anglica.* He points to the fact that several genera such as Nœggerathia, Medullosa, Cladoxylon, Lyginodendron, Heterangium, and Protopytis are now to be grouped under Potonie's con-

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[1] Seward, A. C. The Structure and Affinities of Matonia pectinata, R. Br., with Notes on the Geological History of the Matonineæ, *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*, Ser. B, vol. cxci (1899), pp. 171.

[2] Scott, D. H. On the Structure and Affinities of Fossil Plants from the Palæozoic Rocks. III. Medullosa anglica, a new representative of the Cycadofilices, *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*, Ser. B, vol. cxci (1899), pp. 81.